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CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO CONTINUE PLANNING FOR LIGHT RAIL TO DOWNTOWN GLENDALE

GLENDALÉ, Ariz. -- (May 27, 2016) The Glendale City Council voted in favor of a resolution outlining the city's preferences and next steps for a high capacity transit project to downtown Glendale during the City Council voting meeting Tuesday, May 24th. The City Council had previously considered this item at a workshop meeting in March and provided consensus direction that it be brought forward for consideration as a resolution.

The adopted resolution identifies light rail as the preferred mode and focuses planning efforts on a route beginning on Camelback Road; proceeding north along 43rd Avenue, west on Glendale Avenue and then moving north to Glenn Drive in the area between 51st and 52nd Avenues. The city and Valley Metro will also study the feasibility of taking the line to an end point just west of Grand Avenue.

The project has been studied extensively with the most recent study beginning in 2013. Throughout the study process, numerous routes and modes have been analyzed and there has been an extensive community outreach process including over 100 separate public meetings and events, presentations, and surveys. Tuesday's vote sets aside previously considered routes and narrows the future scope of study, an important step for educating the businesses and residents in the community about the future of the project. It was also an important signal to the city's partners, the city of Phoenix and Valley Metro, that Glendale is supportive of continuing the analysis on this joint project.

There is much work to be done over the next 6-8 months before the City Council will be asked to make a final decision regarding the future of this project. As the resolution outlines, additional analysis is

needed in several key areas, but setting aside the other routes and modes of transportation brings the city one step closer to making important decisions about the future of high capacity transit in downtown Glendale.

If formally approved, construction would begin in early 2023 and the line would open in mid-2026.

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